During my freshmen year in Georgetown Preparatory School I was addressed with the same question in World History and Religion class, “Does religion bring upon the world peace or violence?” Of course the historical answer is violence, however the religious answer is individual peace.

At a very young age I was exposed to Christianity, the Presbyterian section. Due to our family being Christians I had to go to church every Sunday. However, when our family moved to California my religion took a very long break. For two years I never heard the word “God” or saw any praying around me. Later, back in Korea, I was exposed to and forced to go to church and pray before meals again. My father took me to Church, however my brother and mother did not come with us. At the age of thirteen I was sent to a boarding school in Connecticut where I had to go to “chapel” every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Personally I did not know the difference between going to church and chapel, however there was a difference apparently. Sixth and seventh grade I was a pious young man to the teachings of Christianity and Catholicism. Then struck puberty and doubt about any form of religion.

Eighth grade was the worst year, not just school, but of my entire life. During exam week I heard the devastating news about my parents. Thoughts about how my life is not fair and how my life was bad came into question. For one whole year I questioned the existence of God. Everyday I asked questions like “If you’re(God) that strong and almighty why do you not fix the world?” and “If you’re(God) all loving why would you give the people so much pain?” The year after that, ninth grade, I was in Georgetown Preparatory School. Religion was a required class ,therefore, I had to take it although I did not have any faith However, reading stories in the bible actually brought faith and I had a better understanding of the world. But I still doubt some aspects to religion, such as a priest driving a Mercedes, a church with gold linings on the ceiling, or the fact that the priests drink extravagant wine. Currently, I am a faithful Christian praying to a regular schedule and highly against blasphemy.

All of my family is strict Presbyterians because they would never miss church and try to convert people to become Presbyterians. My grandfather and grandmother make generous donations to the needy all over the world and have created various organizations in Korea that help runaway North Koreans. Before every meal we all pray for the safety of our family and give thanks for the food. My religion impacts our society in various ways. For example, I go to a North Korean facility where they fund runaway North Koreans and offer insight about their future. At a worldly level, I have collected money for the third world countries and donated to the Haiti coin drive. Religion has played a huge role in my family and me and continues to be essential part of all of us.